

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The present remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2005, in which Claims 1 through 17 were rejected.

No claims are amended. No claims are canceled and no claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTION-35 U.S.C. SECTION 103 (a)

With respect to page 2 through 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Hofmeister et al (U.S. Patent No. 20040151562A1) and Steere et al

According to Hofmeister et al, which discloses the substrate processing apparatus, the apparatus includes a transport chamber, at least one substrate holding module for holding a substrate, a transport vehicle, and another module (see page 1, section [0006]). And Hofmeister et al also teaches in FIG. 7, the transport apparatus, similar to apparatus 122A, (see also FIG. 3) in the chamber 18 are capable of transiting between sections 18P1, 18P2, 18P3 of the chamber with different environments therein. Hence, as can be realized from FIG. 7, the transport apparatus 122A may with one pick move a semiconductor workpiece from the tool in one process or bay 18A of the processing facility to another tool with a different environment in a different process or bay 18B of the process facility. (see page 5 section [0053]).

According to Steere et al, which discloses a feedback-driven proportion allocator, teaches "...a feedback controller monitors the rate of progress of job threads, and calculates new proportions and periods based on the results...the controller's execution period and the dispatch period can be different." (see fig. 1). Moreover, Steere et al teaches "Our scheduler is a standard reservation-based scheduler...allocates CPU to threads based on two attributes: proportion and period...and the period is the time...1.5 milliseconds every 30 milliseconds." (see page 4, section 3.1, first paragraph).

As mentioned above, Hofmeister et al merely teaches the purpose of process 18A and 18B such as "more or less processes 18A and 18B may be provided that are different processes, for example etch, CMP, copper deposition" (see page 5, section [0056]), and the connection relationship among 18A, 18B and tool 300 "where the processing apparatus 18A and 18B in combination with tool 300 being a stocker" (see page 5, section [0055]). However, in the present invention discloses a method, system, and computer-readable medium, which processes the job item according to the "relationship between the token and robot". For example, "Referring to FIG. 5A, a robot ...The token runs to the car 112 ...The robot directly inputs the ..." (see page 11 line 23 to page 12 line 20). Therefore, Hofmeister et al does not disclose "indicating a token to a first port, wherein said token pre-sets a first job item of said first port to be processed" as in claim 1 and 5. And Hofmeister et al does not disclose "a token cycling among said plurality of ports to indicate one of said plurality of ports as a predetermined priority port" as in claim 9.

In page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner pointed out that Steere et al teaches a feedback-driving which covers the limitation of a token to a first port; said token present; moving said token off. However, the token of present invention is distinct from the threads of Steere et al. First, each thread is based on two attributes: proportion and period, which implies that the priority of each thread is different. Second, Steere et al teaches "a controller periodically monitors the progress made by the threads, and adjusts each job's proportion automatically." (see page 4, section 3, second paragraph), which points out that one job corresponds with one thread. Compared with Steere et al, the present invention teaches that the token is unique; the

priority of token is fixed; and the token circles among a plurality of ports (see form page 8, line 23, to page 9, line 19). According to the foregoing reason, the thread of Steere et al cannot cover the limitation of token of present invention. Therefore, Applicant believes that Hofmeister et al and Steere et al cannot render obvious the present invention. Thus, the rejection for claims 1-17 also can be traversed.

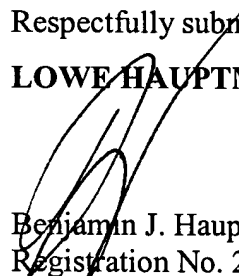
Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims 1 through 17 as currently presented are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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